

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. through 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A method of reducing viscosity of an aqueous solution containing psyllium comprising a step of adding a polysaccharide to the psyllium, wherein an amount of the polysaccharide is effective to reduce viscosity of the aqueous solution containing psyllium, wherein said polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of modified starch, arabinogalactan, partially decomposed guar gum, pullulan, dietary fiber, and mixtures thereof, and has a molecular weight of 20,000 or greater, and a 2% by weight aqueous solution consisting of the polysaccharide and water has a viscosity of 9.0 cp or less (determined using a type B viscometer with Rotor No. 1, at 60 rpm and 25°C).

28. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 27 wherein the step of adding a polysaccharide to the psyllium is performed according to any combination selected from the group consisting of;

- (a) said psyllium with an aqueous material containing said polysaccharide,
- (b) a particulate mixture of the polysaccharide and psyllium with an aqueous material,
- (c) an aqueous material containing the polysaccharide with an aqueous material containing psyllium, and
- (d) an aqueous material containing the psyllium with the polysaccharide.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27 wherein said polysaccharide is granulated.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 27[[30]] wherein the polysaccharide is a modified starch, said modified starch comprising a starch modified by one or more treatment selected from the group consisting of oxidation, etherification, esterification, and gelatinization.

32. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 27[[30]] wherein the polysaccharide is a modified starch selected from the group consisting of oxidized tapioca starch, oxidized potato starch, acid-treated gelatinized potato starch, waxy cornstarch octenyl succinate, acid-treated hydroxypropyl etherified tapioca starch, and mixtures thereof.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 32 wherein the polysaccharide is acid-treated hydroxypropyl etherified tapioca starch, and a weight ratio of polysaccharide to psyllium is in the range of 0.125-20.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 32 wherein the polysaccharide is acid-treated hydroxypropyl etherified tapioca starch, and a weight ratio of polysaccharide to psyllium is in the range of 0.125-10.